

WRESTLING FORUM

SEPTEMBER 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 18

the Now I Know Why Bill Apter is Going Bald Issue
inside

Welcome.....	2
Wrestling Barometer.....	3
American Wrestling Association.....	4
Wrestlers Are People Too.....	5
National Wrestling Alliance.....	6
Pencil Points.....	9
Memphis.....	11
Old Wrestlers Never Die, They Just Become.....	12
Class Act/Dipstick of the month.....	13
Continental Wrestling Federation.....	14
World Wrestling Federation.....	15
Portland.....	18
World Class.....	19
Results From All Over.....	20
Miscellaneous Stuff.....	22

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LESS THAN A WEEK AND COUNTING

And boy am I nervous! What we are talking about, of course, is the first UAWF convention which takes place in Memphis October 7 - 11th. The more I talk about it, the more nervous I get. If you haven't made a reservation, it's officially too late and the only reason I bring it up in the first place is to let you know that the next issue may be a day or two late. We'll have a full report on convention activities and the public lynching of myself should things not go right.

Wrestling Forum, in the meantime, is ideally published on the 15th and 30th of each month with the mailing taking place the following day. In order to get things back on track, we're moving the deadlines up for things to be included to the 13th and the 28th. Production has been taking more time than usual and this should give us time to get things out on a timely schedule. Prices are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for upto six months worth at any one time. THIS IS IMPORTANT!!! Quite a few people have continued to send in subscriptions at the old subscription rate (which hasn't been effective for six months now, leading me to believe this page isn't read by everyone). If you send in any increment that isn't divisible by \$1.50, your subscription will be rounded DOWN to the next amount. That means if you send in \$5.00, you're only going to get three issues. The weird amounts being sent in are about to drive my wife crazy so this is an attempt to keep the whole family sane.

How Bout That Press! That's what everyone is saying after last issue. One page got actually printed on the thing, and that page looked terrible because one page had too much ink and the other not enough. It's going to take some time getting used to but several printers that I've talked to say that once we get used to it, it'll be as easy as using a photocopier (HA!).

The Forumbucks subscription drive continues. If you get someone to subscribe, you get one forumbuck for each issue they subscribe for. Forumbucks can be exchanged for video tapes, subscription extensions, and yearbooks. When I send out your forumbucks, I'll also send along a price list of what's available. Also, the "mystery date" for this issue was September 26 and any subscriptions that came in on that date (new ones) got the person responsible for them double forumbucks. There will be a mystery date in between each issue and will be announce in the following issue as to the value of that date. I will tell you that the one that takes place between Sept 30-October 15 is going to be worth triple forumbucks. The more subscribers you send our way, the better your chances of hitting the date.

Meanwhile, as devoid of news as the past few weeks have been, this is a week that makes up for it. Things are popping all over the place and the results may not be evident for another few months. But when we look back on these past two weeks, this will be remembered as very significant in the whole scope of wrestling history. Before checking in on the news, though, let's take a look at the September Wrestling Barometer with Jeff Siegel.

Welcome to the September edition of "The Wrestling Barometer", the unique census of what's hot and what's not in professional wrestling presented exclusively each month in Wrestling Forum.

Some strong patterns developing this month within the "Barometer" -- including a couple of "returnees" that have slowly been working their way up the charts..and the rare occurrence of an entry qualifying for both lists (only the third time this has happened).

As always, a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying "Barometer" entries: 5 points is awarded for a first place vote, 3 points is awarded for a second place vote, 1 point for a third place vote, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a point for every item that is included on a voter's list from fourth place on. Finally, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in the column so that we can focus on the month's major trends.

Now, onto the September "Barometer":

WHAT'S HOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. Steiner-Rotunda tirades (42 points)
2. Owen Hart/Blue Blazer in WWF (29 points)
3. Fabulous Rougeaus' act (25 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
4. "The Road To Birmingham" (17 points)
5. Turner/Crockett Deal (16 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. Ultimate Warrior winning the IC title (36 points)
2. Turner/Crockett negotiations (34 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. Titan boxing promo on Summer Slam (21 points)

Notes: As noted above, one of the rare times that a qualifier has shown up on both the "Hot" and "Not" sides--that being the Turner/Crockett shenanigans. It appears that while everyone is extremely excited as to the long-term possibilities, the endless stumbling blocks have put a damper on the whole thing. It's kind of like that old joke about "how you feel when your mother-in-law drives a cliff in your brand new car". And speaking of funny lines Steve Meyerson offered this one about Crockett's "uncanny" business sense: "After the Crocketts get out of wrestling," Steve says, "they should enter a business more suited to their financial resources, personalities, and business acumen--like a lemonade stand. Good showings on the up side for two of the game's hottest tag team: The Rougeaus' turn continues to garner strong support, while the impending break-up of the Varsity Club scored a convincing victory as this month's hottest "Barometer" finisher. Some complained that the Steiner-Rotunda split is being dragged out to long (strange for an NWA angle, definitely more of a Titan tendency), while others who are enjoying every moment of it acknowledged that "breaking up is hard to do"...What can you say about the Ultimate Warrior's IC title win enabling him to climb to the top spot on the dark side? Not much, I guess--though it'd be interesting to find out if he was huffing and puffing when he got there.....

The deadline for October "Barometer" ballots is October 22. All entries should be sent to:

JEFF SIEGEL

Box 5461

Evanston, IL 60204

Those attending the first annual UAWF convention next week in Memphis can also deliver your October Barometer entries to me in person. Look forward to seeing many of our Barometer participants in Memphis!

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Looks like the PPV card that the AWA has been planning and has been teasing us with for the past couple of months is finally going to come off December 13 from the UIC Pavilion in Chicago. There has been no official announcement on the card yet, although most of the smaller independent promotions will take part by sending some wrestlers. I don't think we'll see any important matches pitting wrestlers from one promotion against another, other than the main event which will be Jerry Lawler against Kerry Von Erich. Gagne is planning on his being a major success, but with no real national outlet or drawing card, I can't see it becoming one. At first I thought maybe this would slap Gagne up side the head and say, "See? The AWA IS in serious trouble" but with the other promotions being involved, he's always got someone else to blame it on.

OLYMPIC UPDATE...Verne had been pushing the Koslowski twins as potential medalists in the Olympics, probably in hopes that if and when they turned pro, he would have the first shot at signing them. It didn't work. After Dennis won his bronze medal, he announced that he had just wrestled his last match, amateur or professional.

Getting back to the PPV show a moment, you'll recall that the last time they tried running in Chicago, they drew about 400 fans. Their reasoning is that the fans there will be so hungry for AWA action that they'll sell out the place. Only if they PAY people to show up.

The latest TV tapings come from Nashville as opposed to the usual Las Vegas setting and the taping was a combined taping with Memphis and World Class. We'll cover the other promotion's action in their respective reports, but let's take a look at what happened AWA-wise.

Ron Garvin was in and took the AWA TV title from Greg Gagne. The end of the match, after a scientific beginning, saw Garvin do a leapfrog move on Gagne and then fake an ankle injury like he did after turning heel at the Bash shows. He goes into his trunks, comes out with brass knuckles, and KO's Reggie. Now think about it. Gavin has KO'd Flair, Rhodes, and countless others with his hands of stone, but he needs a foreign object to put 112 pound Reggie out. I know where they get the other 100 plus pounds that Greg is announced at...they weigh his ego.

Also on the tapings, Ricky Morton showed up and teamed with Robert Gibson, so the Rock and Roll Express are together again and I guess that means Morton is history with the NWA. Others that appeared on the show include Wendi Richter, Sergeant Slaughter, Jimmy Valiant (moreso for Memphis, but the AWA is claiming him), and a main event of Kerry vs Lawler.

These matches along with another three hours worth taped the next night in Louisville will comprise the next six weeks of TV including ESPN broadcasts. That's dangerous to do especially with the talent situation all over wrestling being so volatile lately. Someone getting a push may decide to take a walk before the program airs leaving someone looking like a real horse's rear end.

Ron Trongard has left the AWA and is headed to Titanland. No big loss as Trongard had to be one of the most inept announcers in the game today. What Titan will do with him is anyone's guess, but Lord forbid they team him with Superstar Graham!

The title match with Kerry and Lawler ended with a lot of confusion, so much so that I don't even think I have it straight. I'll try. Both men slug each other and when the ref tries to break it up, they both slug him. This causes a double DQ but both Kerry and Jerry insist that the match have a definite winner. It continues with a substitute ref and he takes a bump right before Kerry puts Lawler in the piledriver. The second ref then wakes up long enough to count the fall on Lawler and give both belts to Kerry. But yet another ref comes out and tells the second ref that Kerry used an illegal piledriver (illegal in Memphis).

and so Kerry is DQ'd. But the World Class title can change hands on a DQ so Lawler, who was pinned, says he should get both belts. Kerry, being a gentleman, then agreed and handed over his world class belt. But then came an AWA official who said that since the match was under the jurisdiction of the AWA, that special rules like the World Class DQ rule, do not apply. So all the belts are back where they started and I have a headache just trying to sort things out from the notes I made. The next night in Memphis had a similar result with a pull apart with all the Memphis guys protecting and siding with Jerry and all the World class guys on the card (babyfaces only, excuse me) holding back and siding with Kerry. Rumor has it that Kerry will decisively win the unification bout at the PPV event and that Gagne has okayed the deal. Then again, we heard from a good source that Larry Zbyszko was to have won the AWA title too and he's still with Crockett so what do we know, right?

Other minor stuff happened too including a feud starting between Colonel DeBeers and Sgt. Slaughter with DeBeers giving him a face first pile driver on the concrete floor, but I need something to write about in the AWA section over the next couple of months, so let's just leave it at that and say that Sarge did a stretcher job with no juice. More next time and as it appears on the AWA syndicated show and ESPN

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wrestlers are people too

We'll get to our Wrestlers Are People too if we have time, but there's a couple of things that haven't been covered here in a while that we really need to.

First of all, all of the capsule profiles listed here are individual experiences and should not be considered gospel for each wrestler. Individual experiences may vary depending on several circumstances including the mood of the wrestler when approached.

Secondly, this column is starting to get stale. I think we've covered just about every major and minor star in the sport and not only are we getting redundant, we're starting to repeat ourselves.. I'd like to save it, but to do that we may have to put it on hold for a while and replace it with some other sort of reader contribution article. Maybe "The Greatest match I ever Saw Live" thing, or the "First Card I ever Attended" column. You guys think about it and come up with some suggestions. We'll run this feature (WAPT) for the next couple of issues (we have to with convention coming up and the opportunities to meet a lot of wrestlers there with several viewpoints available), but I'd like to see the new one (whatever it is) in Volume 3 Issue 21 (November 15). Let me know what you think.

On to what we have this time with some random profiles with various contributors:

BILLY JACK HAYNES: Clean cut guy who signs autographs as he has time. Preaches about drug abuse and clean living. Lives the role he plays.

HULK HOGAN: Shuns the spotlight when there's no TV cameras around. Has actually hidden from fans wanting autographs. WILL NOT talk inside stuff with anyone, including some of the wrestlers.

TITO SANTANA: Quiet and reserved. Doesn't talk much and answers most questions with a nod or shake of the head.

SAM HOUSTON: Either real dumb, or plays the role well. Surprised that he knows his own name, let alone what's going on around him.

OWEN HART: Very talkative, especially to smart fans. Depends on the surroundings, however. Still dreams of wrestling Flair, however is somewhat excited about the possibility of working with DiBiase as well.

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM: Says "brother" in person more than he does on TV. Plays dumb and won't open up to non wrestling personnel.

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Well, gee, where do we start? There's a bunch of stuff to cover...Let's start with the sale of the NWA which hasn't (as of this writing) taken place yet.

As of last Friday (the 23rd) both sides had turned the talks over to their respective lawyers. This is good news for those hoping the sale goes through as all this means that the lawyers are turning plain English into legal gobbledegook and when they get through doing that, the sale should be complete. Only problem is, this is the point where things fell through last time around.

The weekend before, we got to see a bit of a Ted Turner power play, I'm told. Instead of carrying wrestling in the usual timeslot on WTBS, it was preempted by a Braves-Padres baseball game.. In fact, it was a double header. Now imagine how exciting it was to see two teams in the bottom of their division battling it out. The hundred and fifty fans in attendance sure looked excited. Anyway, from what I was told, Turner wanted to prove a point by showing the game instead of wrestling.. The point was, the NWA needs Turner, Turner doesn't need them. The show that was to have been broadcast was an important one as they were going to have to explain the departure of Tully and Arn, plus they had a dog collar match set up between Sullivan and Simmons. Turner got his point across loud and clear as I understand Dusty and Jim Crockett were having absolute fits. So was the operator at the WTBS switchboard that night.

The next week, they were back on, but it seems that we're supposed to have just forgotten everything that they had been planning. I figured they would bury Tully and Arn, but they didn't. Jim Cornette made a few comments and named them by name (he was the only one that I heard that did), but nothing special or out of the ordinary. The title change was more or less handled in a ho-hum type of attitude.

We'll get back to the show in a second, but there are some other things that are more important at this point. First, Bam Bam Bigelow has been signed by Crockett along with his manager from the WWF, Oliver Humperdick (who should resume his "Sir" title). They come in as babyfaces from what I understand which seems a little illogical. I guess they need some one for the top babyface role and they hope Bam Bam will fill it, which once again leaves Sting out in the cold. As for Bigelow himself, all of his commitments have been cancelled due to his signing, which includes his Windy City date on the 30th in Chicago. he was specifically told that he couldn't work that date. It seems that for some reason, Crockett is intent on wiping out Windy City which means he must see it as a major competitor. This isn't the first time Crockett has tried to sabotage Windy City plans, but we won't go into that here.. I'm not going to take sides in this one (although a contract to appear is still a contract), but this just goes to prove the old saying, "There are no gentlemen in wrestling, only dollars."

The rumors run wild...The big rumor of the week has to be whether or not Lex Luger has walked out or not. I hear what seems to be a pretty consistent story regarding this (opposed to the usual rumors which have about a million different explanations); Luger took his walk Saturday night and is not headed for Titan at this point. According to the best source I could get on the phone with, he's planning on just waiting things out to see if there's a sale or not before making a decision to jump to Titan. Now like I said, this is all rumor at this point and one of the things I've been trying to do is to call subscribers in towns where they were scheduled to appear this week to see if Luger is no showing or not. If he is, then it's confirmed. If not then nothing to worry about and I've just wasted a few hundred words. I'll try to have a definitive answer by the end of the bulletin.

Back to the show...the award for the best wrestling move of the show goes to David Crockett and Jim Cornette when Jim tried to plant a kiss on David. Why Jim is anxious to contact cooties is beyond me...

Sitting in a car dealer's waiting room waiting for my car to be repaired allowed me to catch the Saturday Morning TBS show which I usually miss (the 17th). I'm glad I did catch it on this occasion, not because of the matches, but because of two interviews. First was Steve Williams who blew the fact that the tag title had changed (in his words, "they changed the tag titles" - someone should tell him not to use inside terms on interviews). He got a dirty look for his trouble.

The second had me all over the floor of the car dealership. It was just an interview with Kevin Sullivan, which usually does nothing for me. But Rick Steiner was standing in the background in his own little world. As Kevin is rambling on, losing even rocket scientists with his babbling, Steiner interrupts and say, "Wanna see my pet, Spike?" He's got a paper cup with his hand over it. He claims that he's got a pet fly and that he's taught it to sit. When he moves his hand to show everyone, it flies away. "Awww! He always does that" he laments. Kevin is beside himself and starts slugging him (three stooges style), calling him a goof. It was funny. A lot of people are saying that they are taking too long to turn Steiner babyface. I got news for you. He IS a babyface already. And I hope they keep him right where he's at, giving Kevin Sullivan ulcers. The act is great.

With the Midnight Express holding both the World tag titles and the US tag titles, they are going to have to give up one of the two. The US straps will be the ones to go naturally, and they will be giving out information this weekend on the tournament they will no doubt hold to determine the new ones. Hopefully, the titles will go o someone who is planning on sticking around a while.

Ricky Morton is assured not to be getting half of those titles as he has left again and rejoined Robert Gibson in the AWA. Ricky seemed lost without Robert and having him team with Nikita was just about the most ridiculous idea they've done in a while

Ivan and Nikita are a team again, though. Ivan did an interview with Magnum TA on the "Straight Talk" segment, and to make sure he's over as a babyface, he did the "You are the greatest, Magnum" interview so the fans would have to cheer. One smallllll mistake though. He went to shake Magnum's hand, forgetting that the right hand is still more or less paralyzed. Hey...it happens to the best of us. Next problem... how to get that dumb tattoo off his arm. You know, the one with the American Eagle with the Russian sickle stabbing it...

They are in serious trouble here with the heel side of the roster. They have very few. They've got Flair and Windham of course, the Russian Assassins (who aren't going to sell a lot of tickets I'm afraid), and the Varsity Club. Al Perez should be included too, I guess, for what he's worth. But making the Midnight Express tweeners gained them a lot of fans they didn't have. They are either going to have to do some heavy duty turning to even things out, or they aren't going to have a single feud or match that will draw. A suggestion? Have the Express turn complete babyface and drop Cornette. He could then sign the Fantastics (which was one of their plans a few months ago) which, with the roles reversed, should draw. The Road Warriors could also turn (they are rumored to be turning anyway), but with their legion of fans, they would have to do something really horrendous to get the fans to turn their backs on them. The change of attitude could really pop the Roadies out of their doldrums that they seem to have fallen into. Their other choice is to bring in some heels, but with the sale in progress, alot of that seems to be on hold. That's why a few paragraphs back I said it was illogical to bring in Bigelow as a face.

Luger did in fact work Sunday night in the Omni in Atlanta, so he's still there. The story is that he walked out Saturday night being very ticked off, but not ticked enough to quit permanently. I'm told that whatever it was he was mad about...he's still mad about.

Now we see how they're handling the pre-emption on WTBS last weekend...

they're pretending they were on. That's original. Make the fans think they were on and that they missed something. They made reference to the dog collar match between Simmons and Sullivan and what had happened, but they never came out and said what happened. Anyway, as a result of that match, Dusty and Sullivan and/or Perez will have dog collar matches wherever they go.

Did you see Paul Ellering's new haircut? It makes Ivan Koloff look like a hippie. I don't know if Paul is practicing to be a Russian or what, but it sure is short.

More rumblings from the real estate office of zTed Turner...Unconfirmed as of this writing (Wednesday night), but the deal is to be done as of Friday. We'll be in the middle of a press run if the news comes, so if you find a little while slip of paper somewhere in the bulletin, you'll know for sure.

After making such a big kadoo about John Ayers being the special referee in the Flair-Luger rematches, they are putting Jonny Weaver in the striped shirt instead. I've only heard of one place where Ayers has actually done the reffing chores and quite a few with Weaver. Again, this should hurt more than help, as the fans are being promised one thing then given another. They are pushing the rematches much the same way they did the original match up (that is,, they're trying to make the fans think that their town is the only town the match is going to take place in) so once again, Crockett and Dusty lead the league in broken promises.

I doubt this will ever come about, but wouldn't this next be great? With Tully and Arn gone, and no Rock n Roll Express to feud with, Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express seem to be in limbo as we talked about earlier. How about bringing in Paul E Dangerously and the ORIGINAL Midnight Express to feud with them. There would be more at stake than titles, there would be their very names. Cornette and Dangerously could do interviews together that would make Jim and JJ look like afternoon tea with the bridge club. A three way with the Fantastics would assure a sellout in quite a few places and it would definitely liven up the Crockett Cup next year.

Speaking of the Cup, I know it's way too early to be thinking about it with it being about six months away, but if they don't start thinking about it, they aren't going to have any tag teams to enter it. They need twenty four teams and about the only established tag teams they have are the Roadies, the Express, the Sheeps, the Varsity club, Ivan & Nikita, and Perez & Zbyszko (or Sullivan). There's enough guys to fill out a few more teams, but the biggest complaint last year had to do with so many obvious jobber tag teams. C'mon guys! For an event this big, swallow some of that ego, do some jobs, and fill this thing up with some talent! Good practice will the the tournament for the US tag straps that will be held in the next couple of weeks..

After some short term success with a heel vs heel feud, they may not be hesitant to work some more of these. I've gotten reports that in more than one case, they have matched teams like the Sheeps and the Russians (include the Russians in that list up there), but usually it's because someone didn't show. From reports, these match ups didn't get over. Could be because no one cares about these two teams.



P\*E\*N\*C\*I\*L      P\*O\*I\*N\*T\*S\*

KAY FABING THE SMARTS

There's been a lot of talk of late of how smart fans should approach wrestlers and what the fan's attitude should be in regards to exposing the business to friends or other fans at the arenas. An incident this past Sunday night changed the way I feel.

I went to a small card here in Waterloo (Iowa) that the WWF presented. As I walked to the building, I saw (one of the wrestlers) outside with another guy. I assumed that he was with the WWF and I found out later he was. Anyway, I went up to the wrestler as nicely as I could and told him I really enjoyed watching him wrestle. He thanked me. Then I asked if it was true that Tully and Arn were coming in. He said he had never heard of them. "Tully and Arn who?" was his response.

This guy had been involved in a major angle with Tully and Arn not more than two years ago!

Now I don't mind wrestlers "kay fabing" me. That's part of the job. But I didn't ask a "smart" question. I just asked if they were coming in. He responded with a smug attitude that reeked of "I'm better than you" and "I'm not sayin' nothing!" I wanted to go into that arena and tell everyone everything I knew about wrestling. I wanted to yell out his guy's real name. But I figured that even though he was rude to me, I could be better than him and not do it.

So much for approaching nicely. Next time, I'll go in with a smart question and see how that works. It couldn't be any worse.

-KATHY DEANGELO-

-Waterloo, IA-

RICHTER'S A CLASS ACT TOO

Last summer, some friends and I went to a free show in connection with Maywood Park racetrack. Good old Wendi Richter was the headliner. After her NWF championship match, she hung around for about an hour and a half signing autographs and talking. A guy was pretty rude to her, but she still hung around waiting until an 11 or 12 year old in a wheel chair got his chance. She spent about 20 minutes talking to him, taking pictures and flirting with him. She made him feel ten feet tall and his face was just shinning. I thought this was pretty darn classy.

-PETER BORCHEK-

-Glenview, IL-

REBUTTAL

Sorry about the late response, however comments on your July 30 Forum just never sat right with me. The statement "If Derrick Dukes or Larry Cameron either one ever decide to get dedicated to the sport of wrestling, either of them could get a push that would be believable and that would silence those who shout 'racist' at promoters."

First, it was a poorly written sentence. But more importantly, I don't believe seriousness is equated to success in pro wrestling. Breaks seem to supercede everything. If seriousness had much to do with anything, neither Terry Szopinski (Warlord) or Jim Lanning (Soldat Ustinov) would have gotten breaks because early in their PWA careers, both seemed to lack seriousness.

I have promoted matches on both Derrick and Larry's since they began. Both are very serious, spend countless hours in the gym, do dozens of community appearances each year and get along with virtually every promoter they've worked for. I also know that Derrick has sent brochures and pictures to every major promotion in North America numerous times. Both Derrick and Larry are very talented which is something I'm sure you'll agree on. Derrick has fire, size (245 lbs) and can fly. Talent wise, he's in the same category as Brian Pillman. Strategy-

wise, he's the best young talent I've seen since Owen Hart. Larry Cameron is no slouch either. He's a former Mr. Minnesota and CFLer and weighs about 260. He's a solid rock, rugged in the ring, wrestles similarly to Stan Hansen and commands a crowd's attention as well as anyone alive. In simple terms, he's awesome.

Both men can wrestle for long periods of time, they spend lots of time preparing interviews, are always in proper attire and have a deep respect for others.

Because of the immense talent of both men, I have to believe that even in the 80's, their careers have been plagued more by prejudice than a lack of seriousness.

-RAY WHEBBE-

-St. Paul-

EDITOR: By lack of seriousness, I meant that fans don't take most black wrestlers serious because of the stereotype that they are forced to play. Should either of these two men get the break they very much deserve, fans will have no problem accepting them as serious wrestlers. As for dedication, I used the wrong term. By dedication I meant that they were not hooked up with a major promotion. I forgot that they had to get a break first. I stand corrected.

#### A WEEK WITH THE FED

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed "A Week With the Fed." I thought it was one of the best articles I've read in the Forum. As you said, it was very enlightening as to the goings on of a life that most readers can only imagine. I think a good majority of us appreciate that all wrestlers do not lead a glamorous, financially secure life, but the use of actual dollar amounts and detailed descriptions put it into perspective. I look forward to seeing more of these articles.

-CODY VAN HORN-

-Puyallup, WA-

First of all, don't change a word of this letter. And please print it as such. I want to let all your readers know a little more about "A Week With the Fed." I'm the one who "wrote" the article. Jon edited it quite a bit (for the better I might add). He took out names of towns, names of opponents, etc, all to protect my identity. He didn't change the context of the story, but he made it sound like I was semi-intelligent, and I don't write that way at all, but I try. I hesitated a while before sending the story along because I knew that someone might figure out who I was. Finding someone you can trust, especially someone who's in the media, in this business, is rare. With the trust Jon has shown me, I will continue to write from time to time as objectively as I can about the business and answer questions and stuff like that. But I will let Jon edit it. He tells me the response has been good to the article. I hope you enjoyed it. You'll hear from me soon, I promise. All my best to your readers!

-NAME WITHHELD-

EDITOR: Word for word, my friend. We look forward to more "stuff."

I have a suggestion for future articles by your "Week with the Fed" writer. How about telling us what his friends and family, his neighbors and (former) co-workers thought of his entering the wrestling game. Does he tell them it's a work? Do they go to cheer him on? And what about the arena rats? What kind of people are they (Arena Rats Are People Almost?!?!). Fantastic stuff that we outsiders just eat up! Give us more more more!

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

## MEMPHIS

Let's take care of a couple of rumors right off the bat. You may want to jump ahead to the Continental report so you can get a handle on where this first one comes from, but Paul E and Eddie Gibert are not headed in. There are still some hard feelings left here for some reason, what, I'm not sure of. But neither side is very willing to come to any sort of an agreement due to the feelings. But you know wrestling...it makes for strange bedfellows and things change at the drop of a hat.

In a match that will probably end up on ESPN, the RPM's (working as heels) took on Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond (also working as heels) for the AWA tag championships. This match took place on the Memphis card and the crowd was evenly split for this brawl. Not sure of the ending except that Badd Company retained the titles.

The Jarrett-Fuller thing continues with each side adding to itself for combination matches. One hat should make the air hot along with Bill Dundee and Jimmy Vasiliant (who I understand has shaved off the beard and looks close to human again) against Fuller, Golden and Tommy Rich. This match was on the Nashville tapings and the match ended up all over the building.

I'm anxious to see how they explain to the AWA fans that Tommy Rich is a heel. For the longest time, Memphis was the only place he worked as a heel and since it was against former friend and Memphis legend Jerry Lawler, that was easy enough to explain. Now he's playing the super heel (and doing the role very well) so they're going to have to come up with some sort of explanation. Nah. On second thought, they won't even bother.

Last issue we mentioned that Al Costello had been booked for the Convention dates and was bringing a couple of his boys along. Whoops. That's what we had been told, but it's not true. Then again, when I called to get some of the little details worked out with the promotion for the convention, not only could they not tell me what the main event was going to be for a week down the road, they couldn't even tell me what wrestlers they had booked. At this point the only thing we know is that Jerry Lawler won't be at the TV taping, but he will be Monday night. He's busy in Texas setting things up down there for selling the AWA PPV card in December. The fact that they don't know from week to week who is going to be there makes things even more impressive as it always looks like their angles and TV stuff is well thought out in advance. They seem to be playing things by ear though.

While in Memphis, I'll be staying at the Day's Inn Hotel Riverview, on Alston St. if you need to get hold of me for anything. I will be there from October 6-11.

# OLD WRESTLERS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST BECOME...

Cops. Or in this case, a cop became a pro wrestler, and then went in to the police business after his career in wrestling ended.

Frank Holtz was known as th "Fighting Cop from Carnegie" during his seventeen year stint as a pro wrestlers. He wrestled part time while holding down the full time job as a police officer.

Frank got into wrestling in 1962 when he and Bruno Sammartino became friends while working in the construction business. During the next decade and a half plus, Holtz continued to wrestle close to his home of Carnegie, PA. He wrestled in cities such as Philadelphia and New York for the WWWF. He even traveled to Japan in 1969 for a six week period.

Frank found being a wrestler helpful to his job as a police officer. Often after appearing on a TV show, Frank would go back on duty only to be called to a disturbance at a bar. More often than not, the trouble maker would recognize him as the "wrestling cop" and the trouble went no further.

Frank's career as a wrestler was finished on September 5, 1979 as he sat in a police car while in a roadblock. A driver in a stolen car plowed through the roadblock, smashing into Frank's car. The result was a leg broken in three places as Frank was trying to exit the car before it was hit. He claims that his physical conditioning helped him survive the accident which kept him away from the police force for a full year.

Holtz was sworn in as the chief of police in Carnegie, PA a little over a year ago. His fond memories of friends and foes stay with him today as he eagerly reminisces about his days in the ring.

For months now, I've been promising this feature we call "Old Wrestlers Never Die, They Just Become..." and now it's here. I'm sure some of our older WWF fans will recall Frank Holtz. We had this set to run a few issues back, but lousy timing caused me to pull it. It would have been bad taste to run it while announcing the deaths of Adrian Adonis, Wildman and Pat Kelly.

If you know of a wrestler who is now out of the business and you'd like us to know what he's doing today, just let us know.

# CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH September, 1988

Last issue I related a story about an incident with Lanny Poffo and how he took time away from what he was doing to spend some real quality time with a physically disabled youngster. The fact that there were no TV cameras present or members of the media (He didn't know who I was and I don't consider myself part of the media anyway) made this incident even more special. I said last time that Lanny had proved to me what he was made of and that I was impressed. Lanny is truly a class act and I'm sure that this kind of thing not only happens in Peoria, Illinois, but in every city he goes to as well. Lanny is runner up this month in our Class Act of the Month Award.

It took a lot of coaxing to get me to name him runner up instead of winner. But a group of wrestlers did something that was even more valuable and that helped a lot of other kids as well. Over the Labor Day weekend, Jerry Lewis holds his annual telethon. Across the country, wrestlers from virtually every promotion large and small took small parts in the telethon whether it was behind the scenes collecting money, or answering telephones, to actually getting on the TV and pleading for pledges. There were no battle lines drawn here as babyfaces and heels worked together as did wrestlers from rival promotions. I have received several reports of wrestlers taking part around the country and it just wouldn't be fair to name a few without naming all. Because of this, we award this month's Class Act, not to an individual, but to anyone who took part in this worthwhile venture (including Johnny and Sonny who almost wrecked Allen's car calling me to tell me about their experience).

## DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH September, 1988

I know Carlos Colon has been through a lot lately with the murder of Bruiser Brody on the minds of the fans in the Caribbean, but can you believe he actually had the gall to include his wife in an angle to get himself over. It's not that so much that I mind, because women can be used to really spark the interest of fans, getting them very emotionally involved. Randy Savage proved that very point when Honky Tonk Man shoved Liz on a Saturday Night's Main Event. The difference is, Liz wasn't required to blade!

In the skit in question, Mrs Colon comes out to join her husband in accepting an award for Wrestler of the Year. Hercules Ayalea punches her out and she blades to make it look good. While we have no problem accepting her role in adding heat to the feud between her husband and Hercules, the fact that Carlos had her juice, steps over the bounds of good taste.

Runner up this month is the highly intelligent individual who figured that a double header between the two worst teams in the National League West would draw better ratings than wrestling on TBS. We understand the final decision was made by Mr. Turner himself, but regardless of who it was, and honorary dipstick is on its way to them.

Also on our list of runners up is David Woods of the Continental Wrestling Federation. We don't have the whole story yet (probably we do in the CWF report, but not here) but letting so much talent slip away is something that should not go unrecognized.

## CONTINENTAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

As we approach the Road to Birmingham tournament to be held this weekend, a major league monkey wrench has been thrown in to the plans. A major walkout led by booker Eddie Gilbert has left the promotion completely in shambles.

The story behind the walkout revolves around Eddie's legitimate neck injury. Eddie was planning on taking some time off because doctors had told him that if he continued to wrestle, he risked permanent disability including possible paralysis. He was still going to be the booker and I understand that the angle was underway to turn him babyface during his recovery period. However, owner David Woods balked at having to continue to pay Gilbert if he wasn't going to work (does this give you an idea of how sleazy some promoters can be?). Eddie then walked out, followed by quite a few of the boys. Gone along with Eddie is of course Missy and manager Paul E Dangerously. Bam Bam Bigelow will not be in the tournament due to his signing with the NWA. Sgt Carter also took a hike and Private Pyle left as well (even though he had already been given his notice). As of this writing, I'm not real sure who they have left for the tournament. Nightmare Freddie (Doug Gilbert) was also on the list of casualties as well as Nelson Royal. In all, I guess somewhere in the neighbor hood of nine guys walked, leaving a very sparse selection for a new champion.

¶ Pez "Willie B Hert" Whatley is rumored to have gone. All we know here is that he had claimed that if he wasn't going to win the tournament he was going to retire (not really, this was an angle), but I've heard that he is history too. This is definitely a booker's nightmare as Eddie not only took all the guys with him, he also took the ideas. This will hurt a bunch, believe me.

FNN SCORE hasn't been running the show because they haven't been getting the tapes. David Woods will not send the tapes Federal Express for some reason even though FNN pays the freight. If FNN doesn't have the tapes, they can't very well show them. Eddie was about the only link that was keeping the two sides together, so we may see this once hot promotion drop completely from sight in less than two weeks.

And just when we had a regular reporter. Darn!

## WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Evidently, fans were not the only ones bothered by Superstar Graham's constant use of the word "bruddah" during Summer cam 88. On the Prime Time show on USA network, Vince McMahon filled in for Gorilla Monsoon, co-hosting the show with Bobby Hennan. They showed the Bulldogs-Rougeaus match and at then end, Vince commented in his slow, agony filled voice, "How...many times...did he say...the word, "brother?". Heenan used his banana phone to call someone and come up with the answer, "97." I'm not sure if that's correct, but it certainly is close. With Vince making such comments about his babyface announcer, you have to wonder how much longer he'll be around.

We managed to get to the show in Burlington Iowa on the 17th. We had some problems with the Athletic director at the high school it was being held at...he wanted us to pay \$27.00 to see the show, charging Kelly, my four year old, full price. I told him we'd pay \$18.00 and he told us we could leave then. To make a long story short, we all got to see the show...free. We watched from just outside through an open door. The show was for the local athletic booster's club so Titan had no control over who they charged (they were even charging \$9.00 for babies that were no more than a few months old!) I'm not particularly proud of what I did (sneaking in), but when I told a Titan official what we had done, he said he would have done the same thing. We did offer to pay for two seats, afterall, but we were asked to leave.

Anyway, here are the results of the show. Dave Peterson pinned Sandy Beach. It went close to 20 minutes and both guys worked very hard. Unfortunately, Beach's only offensive move is a clothesline. Both sold well for each other and I was impressed that they were still working hard when Peterson finally caught Beach in a belly to belly suplex for the pin. Grade C-.

Sherri Martel pinned Rockin Robin. They've worked together for quite a while now and it shows. There was comedy at the beginning and a good mixture of drama in the middle. Sherri revered a cross body block, trying to use momentum, for the pin. The finish was horrible as they stopped dead halfway through and Sherri had to literally crawl on top for the pin. Still, it was the best match of the night (if that tells you anything) and I gave it a C+.

Hart Foundation beat Jacques rougeau and a local jobber. Ray didn't show up (the previous Monday night in Peoria he only worked about 30 seconds of this same match) so I assume he was sick or hurt. Jacques was hilarious, applauding for the Harts as they were introduced and shouting instructions to his partner during the match. He'd yell, "dropkick! the jobber would throw one, but since the Harts heard Jacques yell it, they always countered the move. Jacques would then yell, "NO! Not like that!". I was rolling in the...well not the aisles, but wherever I was standing. Grade: C

Sam Houston pinned WWA World Champion Mike George. They worked together in the Central States and the UWF, but you would never have known it. They didn't work well together at all. Sam won with a bulldog off the ropes in a little less than 20 minutes. Grade: D.

Greg Valentine pinned Don Muraco after belting him with the leg brace. Greg came to the ring and started to disrobe, but realized he had forgot the leg brace back in the locker room. He acted like he was walking out of the match altogether, then came back with it in place. Exact same match we'd seen a few nights earlier. In fact it looked like a slow motion replay. Not good and the crowd knew it. Grade: D- because they could have least looked like they cared.

Attendance was about 2000. Most were kids with their parents standing outside saying, "I'm not paying \$9.00 to watch this crap!"

Two Titan shows in one week. I think that's enough of them to hold me over for a long while. Makes you really respect people like Ron Lemieux who attend back to back TV tapings and live to tell about it. Well, let's get onto some news.

Curt Hennig's push should begin shortly. They are calling him "Mr Perfect" sort of in the style of Paul Orndorff. I thought Vince had learned that you can't replace someone who has left. Cpl Kirschner didn't replace Sgt Slaughter, Superfly Afi bombed trying to replace Snuka, and Oliver Humperdink failed miserably trying to copy Lou Albano. But, we'll see it again with this. Curt will be introduced nationally via video clips for a few weeks then brought in to work TV. In the meantime, you can catch him working on the C team until his videos have run their course.

Terry Taylor is going to be called "the Little Red Rooster" and for the life of me, I can't figure out why. He's set to be managed by Bobby Heenan (could we please see a few more heels without managers please).

I thought they had cancelled TNT, but evidently, there's still some of the campy skits left over. One aired on this past weekend's show with Mean Gene talking a walk into some sort of New York alleyway or something. He's confronted by Slick, whose carrying a ghetto blaster and being the stereotyped black. Before we know it, natives/canibals come dancing around a fire built in a fifty-five gallon drum. Then out comes One Man Gang, who they are now claiming to be from Africa and they tell us his name is now Akeem. Let me ready myself for the hate mail that is about to pour in, but...did they notice that Gang is not black? Does it really matter? The skit ends with Mean Gene trying to hail a cab and the cannibals inviting him to stick around for lunch. The scary part about this is, I'll bet someplace, somewhere, there's actually someone who fell for this malarkey.

I'm not sure of this next, but my guess is that they will be trying to push Blue Blazer as a super hero, complete with comic book. That would be my guess as to why the ridiculous costume that Owen is having to wear. How's he doing? GREAT! His workrate has slowed a little since leaving Calgary and they are telling him not to do all the spectacular moves that he's famous for. At live shows, the bookers are telling him to save stuff for next time he's in town. Meanwhile, he's finished up his series against Barry Horowitz and is now working with Scott Casey. Now can you believe this? They told Owen to let Scott take control and call the match due to his experience?!?! Right now, Owen is doing everything he's told to do, but that is almost an insult to someone with his ability. After all, Owen Hart may not have but a couple of years as a professional, but with brother Bret and daddy Stu, Owen grew up in a ring. Does the WWF realize what they have under that mask?

While we're on the subject of Owen, after seeing him a few times more than what I did when he was working Calgary, several have written or called to see just where I would rank him. He doesn't yet have the ring psychology of Flair or DiBiase, or for that matter even a Savage or a Hennig. But his work is better, mainly due to the high spots than a lot of those that have long been considered top ten material. I still rank him behind those four, but still ahead of Sting and Bobby Eaton. Barry Windham is another that I would rank just ahead of him, and brother Bret is right about the same (this is why I hate doing ratings).

There are several schools of thought on the signing of Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. The most popular among the boys is that they will be brought in as babyfaces rather than as heels. Actually, it's about split down the middle as to that or having them come in as singles. With Tully unwilling to do jobs (of course that might change now that he's with the number one promotion and his new paychecks), it would



make sense then for them to come in as a team with Arn being the designated jobber when the time comes. Actually that would lend itself to a couple of ways to go where they could (down the road many miles, mind you) stress the fact that it seems to be Arn always getting pinned and they could make him the weak link figure and do a split up feud over that. Mr. McMahon, you know where you can send the check for my consultant's fee.

Last issue I mentioned that Hulk is losing it and I didn't mention what he was losing. What I meant of course was that he is losing his mind by coming out with that stupid "war bonnet" that he uses. Several readers brought out the reason for the bonnet, one that completely slipped by me. He is in fact losing it, but instead of his mind, it's what's on top of his mind...his hair. We've all known this for years, and we can see a steadily receding hair line (I can't speak too loudly here), but since he took his summer vacation, it's become all the more noticeable. Now how can a whole generation of little Hulkamaniacs look up to a bald guy. Bald guys are supposed to be old. Old guys can't be heroes. Therefore, we have to cover up the bald spot, or at least make sure no one pays any attention to it. Enter the "War Bonnet" which no doubt, will be in the stores by Christmas at a cost of only....

With the addition of Ron Trongard to the broadcast team, one has to wonder, "WHY?". It used to be that Vince got his jollies by stealing people away from the competition, and no doubt he still does. But Ron Trongard? Trongard always rates high on our "worst announcer of the year awards" and a lot of people said it was due to the talent he had to work with. This should put all those critics to rest.

Although I've been watching the show in fast forward for the most part (slowing down for interviews - especially the Rougeaus - and Owen) I haven't seen any hype here for either the Survivor Series or the Leonard-LaLonde fight. Do you suppose they got the message when everyone dumped on them for all the commercials during the pay per view show?

Here's a tid-bit left over from the Burlington show. They made an announcement that cameras were welcome in the arena, but not ones for commercial purposes, or any that would be published in any kind of publication. I guess they want to make sure that Steve Taylor takes all their public shots. Taylor is one of the best in wrestling photography so it makes sense that they only want to release pictures of the highest quality to assure they maintain that standard. But they wouldn't even let a newspaper photographer to ringside to take pics for the Sunday paper. There are some arenas around the country that will not allow cameras as per WWF rules and they in fact, take the cameras from fans and hold them until after the show. I think I've covered this before, but they encourage people to take pictures every week on their TV show by showing camera flashes all over the building. These flashes are suspended strobe lights that Titan puts up and sets off at appropriate times, suggesting that it's okay to bring cameras. Everytime Rick Rude takes off the robe, they show shots of women in the audience snapping pictures. Please explain this policy to me.

Also new to the WWF is yet another new magazine called "Spotlight." I haven't seen it yet, but from what I understand, it will take one wrestler and feature stories about only him (and probably have more than half of it's pages devoted to WWF merchandise). The first issue is due on the newsstands (I just haven't gotten to my newsstand yet) at this very moment and features Randy Savage. Didn't they do something like this as a tribute to Bob Backlund right close to the time he ended his title reign? History does have a way of repeating itself, but I hope this time it doesn't.

## PULSE ON PORTLAND

by Greg Anderson

mel Saraceno will start up his new promotion now being called Pacific Coast Championship Wrestling on 10/1. I expect the new group to take over Haynes' TV slot. I wonder if they will go into Washington as well as Oregon. I, myself, am of the opinion that they will not be any more successful than Haynes was as there is just too much competition and using basically the same crew that Billy Jack had won't help them at all. Now on to Owens...

The Grappler beat Scott Peterson to re win the Northwest title on 9/8 in Newport, OR. Dennis Condrey left after only a few appearances (he only made that one Portland date) in the area, but I don't have the reason at this writing.

Everything is focusing around the Night of Champions card featuring NWA champion Ric Flair on 9/20 in Portland with Grappler and Top Gun facing each other for the right to meet Flair. In a 2 of 3 fall, no time limit bout on 9/10, Gun won the first fall with a piledriver and pin. Grappler worked over Gun's shoulder in the second fall and got the pin after ramming Gun's shoulder first into the mat. Grap continued working on the shoulder in the final fall and attempted to run it into the turnbuckle when Gun stopped short and pushed the heel ahead into the buckle, took him down in a reverse cradle as he fell back and scored the pinfall. On 9/17 Buddy Rose faced Top Gun in a \$5000 bounty match. Grap supposedly put up the money which he would pay Rose if he could injure Gun so that the world title match would go to the hooded heel. Art Barr, on crutches due to a knee injury suffered in a match against Billy Two Eagles on 9/10 was doing TV commentary (I believe the injury is legit). Grappler went up to the TV booth to do commentary himself and Grap had mouthed ref Sandy Barr and he and Art argued over this. Grappler shoved Art down, loaded his boot, and kicked his bad knee (not really very hard, but Art did a great job of writhing in pain). Grap then went to ringside and as Rose held Gun, Grap loaded up his boot, but Scott Peterson, Steve Dahl and Mike Golden grabbed the Grappler and hauled him off. Two Eagles went up to help Art while Gun went on to pin Rose and escape unharmed. You have to give Len Denton credit for not giving himself a shot. It wouldn't surprise me though if Crockett insisted that Flair wrestle as a heel as a provision for loaning him out for the card.

For years, Don Owens has had a kids free night in Portland and many times they would have a heel rant and rave about it and threaten to take legal action. Well, Al Madril has been given the angle this time and he is by far the best I've ever seen in this role. It is hilarious and it seems Owens has been having kids night every other week. Al appears to be going over the edge. On 9/17, Madril and Steve Dahl met in a match in which if Dahl lost he would have to serve as Al's valet for a week and if Al lost, he would have to hand out photos of Dahl to the first ten kids at ringside on this night and all during the week. In this match, Madril tried to pin Dahl with his feet on the ropes, but Sandy Barr caught it and seconds later, Dahl took Madril down with his feet on the ropes and Barr counted three. Madril tried to leave the ring and then refused to give the photos out. Madril then threw the photos at the kids and Dahl order him to hand them out with a smile on his face. Madril then crumpled up the rest of the photos and Dahl began beating Madril around the ring. The Beach Boys then ran in and attacked Steve. The triple teamed Dahl until Peterson ran in with a chair.

The Beach Boys were to defend the belts against the Rockers on the night of Champions card.

We have a correction...Buddy Rose did not lose to Top Gun in their mask vs mask match on 8/27. Avalanche was under Rose's Top Gun Mask and HE lost the bout. Rose came out later under the mask and claimed

that "he missed the plane" and had his friend Av sub for him.

Finally, here are some notes from the 9/20 Portland special... In the NWA title bout they used one of Dusty's favorite finishes. Ref Sandy Barr was bumped out of action and Flair tossed Top Gun over the top rope. Gun then came back and got a pin on Flair and a second ref, Luke Brown came in and made the count. Barr of course, overruled Brown due to Gun going over the top rope and Flair was DQ'd so Ric keeps the belt...The Southern Rockers won back the tag belts when they defeated the Beach Boys. Also, Mike Golden beat Colonel DeBeers via DQ in a TV title match when Grap ran in and attacked Golden. A dog collar match was held on 9/24 between Grap and Golden....Art Barr did indeed have arthroscopic surgery on 9/20

#### WORLD CLASS

Lots of action in the tag team scene from here with the titles being switched quite a bit. First off, the Samoan Swat team won a unification bout against Wild West champions John Tatum and Jimmy Jack Funk. Then, on 9/16, Steve Cox and Michael Hayes defeated the SST in a match where Hayes had said that if they lost, he would refund everyone's ticket price. Cox is improving, but painfully slow is the progress.

Buddy Roberts is doing a thing where he's running for president (of what? Oh, just the United States) because we need better men to run this country. They are playing it up as a pretty funny skit.

A few newcomers...first, the Beast, who looks a lot like Kamala, but isn't has popped up. We don't know for sure who he is. but I understand that he did work recently for Blackwell's Southern Wrestling in Georgia. This group seems to have some preoccupation for bringing in weird cavemen types...don't know why. Also in is Kendall Windham (as stated last issue) who debuted by beating Killer Tim Brooks. They have also announced Ron Garvin and Robert Gibson as coming in. These new arrivals are due to what they are calling "World Class' Open Door Policy". Sounds like a trade agreement with the Chinese or something.

The big feud of course is Kerry Von Erich against Jerry Lawler. Kerry is playing the ultimate babyface here as Lawler leaves no doubt that he's the heel. You know, I think I learned more respect for Kerry in the past week than I ever had before. This past week at work, I hurt my ankle and had to go to the hospital. They bandaged the ankle up in such a way that I couldn't bend it at all. I had to limp and it was hard to walk at all due to the absence of flexibility. My legs got very tired from having to make up for my barely usable bad foot. After having this for just a couple of nights, I have to think what Kerry goes through every day. Remember, they fused his ankle together so it's permanently like that...unable to bend. I'm impressed with his guts...one of these days, that foot is not going to support him at all. Working on that ankle must be the hardest thing in the world.

All the hype coming out of the television show lately is aimed at the Cotton Bowl card on October 15. The only match that I know about at this point is the "unification" match between Kerry and Jerry. As of this last weekend, I don't think they have announced any more matches, but that is our local show and not the one shown in Texas. They have to have announced some sort of undercard...haven't they?

There are quite a few rumors floating around thatCrockett is looking into taking over the contracts of the World Class wrestlers and including them on his cards, including Starrcade. This is hard to believe in light of the fact thatCrockett is almost ready to sell his promotion and the fact that World Class, Memphis and the AWA are working so closely together at this point. Still, the rumors persist.

## RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

9/16 KANSAS CITY (WWA) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...  
 Jason Sterling over JR Hogg...Grim Reaper over Ric McCord  
 by DQ...Dutch Mantell and Chavo Guerrero DCOR...Chris  
 Adams drew Eddie Gilbert...Tommy & Doug Gilbert defeated  
 Chuck Singer/Teddy Love...Mike George beat Chris Adams...  
 NOTES: Attendance 225...Adams vs Gilbert best match  
 Bruce has seen in a long time...

9/15 NORWALK, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux...  
 Paul Roma beat Horowitz...Poffo beat Skoalund... Duggan  
 pinned Bravo...OMG over Patera...Rockers over Conquistadors  
 ...NOTES: Attendance: 850...Brother Love was guest referee  
 for Duggan-Bravo...He favored Bravo and finally Duggan  
 tossed him out and the night's regular ref came into  
 make the count.

9/11 GREENSBORO (NWA) - courtesy of Larry Lovell...Rotundo/  
 Steiner beat Armstrong/Stallion...Doc over Rip Morgan...Russians  
 over Nikita/Morton by DQ...Warriors defeated Shepherders...  
 Dusty beat Perez in a dog collar match...Sting over Barry  
 by DQ...Midnight Express over Fantastics...Luger by DQ...  
 Attendance: 2500...used the typical ref bump finish in  
 Flair-Luger match...Barry was DQ'd for not releasing  
 the claw hold...Ivan did a run in during Assassin's match.

9/19 ENFIELD, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Dan Reilly...  
 Roma over Horowitz...Poffo beat Skaoland...Duggan over  
 Bravo...OMG beat Patera...Rockers downed Conquistadors...  
 NOTES: Grades for matches in order are C, F, C, D,  
 NO GRADE, BUT BEST ON CARD...Attendance 350...Poffo's  
 frisbee toss was his best move of the night...Frenchie  
 Martin no showed...wrestlers were very accessible after  
 the matches and posed for pictures.

9/19 NEW HAVEN, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux...  
 Hennig beat Brunzell...Haku over Powers...Beefcake over  
 Bass by DQ...DiBiase beat Koko...Jake pinned Rude...Powers  
 of Pain over Bolsheviks...Iron Mike downed Tommy Angel...  
 Hogan beat Bossman by COR...NOTES: Attendance 6200...  
 Curt stalling like Larry Z now in his MR. Perfect role...  
 DiBiase-Koko disappointing...Jake-Rude best match of  
 the night...Hulk handcuffed Bubba to the ropes and clothes-  
 lined him out of the ring to win by COR...

LANCASTER, CA (IND) - courtesy of Pat Crocker...Sam Delga over Golden Eagle...Jay Strongbow Jr beat Steve Strong... Great Goliath beat Carlos Mata...Tony Rocco over Alexis Smirnoff...Mando Guerrero/Peter Maivia Jr defeated Lords of Discipline...Iron Sheik beat Victor Rivera when the ref stoppe dthe match...Chavo Guerrero pinned Jack Armstr to win the All California Championship Wrestling belt. Card was 9/23

9/30 CHICAGO (Windy City) - courtesy of Steve Sims and Jeff Siegel...Frank Melson pinned Texas Hangman I and or II (C)...Larry Cameron squashed Pancho Oliva (NR)...Awesome Ondi apparently beat Candi Devine for the WCW ladies title (C)...Tokyo Bullets upset Beach BOys (B+) ...Mighty Thor pinned Von Steiger (Zzz)...Regal beat a count to beat Col DeBeers (D+)...Midnight Express/Eddie Gilbert surprised Terminators/Mighty Thor (B-) ...Gordy and Bigelow slepwalked to a double count out... (C+)...NOTES: Attendance 1000...no shows included Doug Sommers, Dave Meltzer and Brad Muster who were last seen driving around the south side of Chicago in a baffled state...Candi was squashing Ondi when she grabbed powder.. they will review films of the match before making a decisi Larry the Bull turned during the Regal DeBeers match. He went and hit Regal with one of the bats, then looked like he would be helping DeBeers celebrate but turned on the Colonel leaving both men down for the ref to count out...Regal got up at the nine count to retain the title.. Larry did a run in on the Express, but they tripled on him until the Termies made the save...Regal introed new protege "Tarzan and his valet Jane" who captured the hearts and groins of all men there. Tokyo Bullet #1 was the best worker of the night.

9/24 WASHINGTON DC (NWA) - courtesy of Bill Hanrahan... Perez beat Stallion (C-)...Assassins beat Sheeps (C-)... Rotundo drew Williams (B+)...Dusty beat Sullivan (D)...Midnights over Fantastics (C)...Flair over Luger via DQ (C)...NOTES: Attendance 6100...wrestlers seemed pre-occupied with the rats at ringside rather than working.... most were swearing all night and/or spitting...

## MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

We had no winner in our trivia contest from last issue. We asked the question "When did the first non-tournament singles match between Antonio Inoki and Tatsumi Fujinami take place?" The answer (correct answer) was September 19, 1985. We will start our trivia questions again next issue and we'll have an easier one for the prize package. Right now, I'm busy coming up with 2000 trivia questions for use at the convention and I'm about trivied out.

I've just been informed that the Battle of the Bam Bams (Gordy and Bigelow) that was scheduled for tonight in Chicago (this is the 30th) will take place as scheduled. I'm not sure how they got that one, but I'm impressed. Due to our tight printing schedule this time around, you'll have to wait until next time for Windy City results. Things around Chicago are hoppin' this weekend. Hammond, a suburb of Chicago on the Indiana side hosted the NWA on the 28th, Windy City ran the Amphitheatre card on the 30th and Crockett is in at the UIC Pavillion on Sunday the 2nd.

One of the worst kept secrets in pro wrestling has to be the line up for the PPV show that Gagne is doing. They haven't officially announced it yet, but this looks to be the line up: Kerry vs Jerry; Hayes/Cox vs SST; Iceman Parsons vs Brickhouse Brown; Badd Company vs Top Guns; Wahoo vs Fernandez; DeBeers vs Slaughter; Jeff Jarrett/Jimmy Valiant vs Fuller/Golden; Ron Garvin vs Greg; Guerreros vs RPMs; and a ten girl "naughty lingerie battle royal. There are a few other matches as well that have yet to be signed.

Titan finally entered America's last frontier and now has TV in Anchorage AK. They had TV there back in 85-86, but for some reason, it was dropped. They're back on the Fox station in the city and debuted this past weekend.

Part of the stipulations for the sale of the NWA revolve around David Crockett and his sister Francis and what will happen to them. I guess it's not enough to receive a monthly check from Ted Turner, so they have both asked to stay on. That was one of the stumbling blocks in the negotiations, but apparently, that obstacle has been hurdled by guaranteeing both positions with the new company.

The TNT network will have premiered by the time you read this and as of yet, no TV guide lists any wrestling on the network.

Here's a quick reader request: Dean Ryan of Box 142983, Anchorage, AK 99514 is looking for someone to tape the ESPN shows that the AWA did in Nashville. Write to him for details.

We are still looking for your input on how to handle the year end voting for awards. The question we put to you is do you want myself and the staff of wrestling Forum to list our picks before the voting begins (which may tend to influence voting), after it ends (which could make us all look like geniuses), in the yearbook, or when? Would you like us to list along with the categories (which will be expanded this year a little) the front running choices in our opinion without listing actual picks (like giving you the six or seven best bets) or just list the categories. Are there any categories you would like to see included? Dropped? Voting begins in six weeks (are we ready?) and will continue till year's end. Just jot us a line with

your thoughts.

A couple of reader requests...SEAN RYAN, PO BOX 142983, Anchorage, AK 99514 is looking for someone to tape the upcoming ESPN broadcasts for him. Write for details or to work our a trade.

RANDY SMITH, 1 SHakespeare Drive, Sinking Spring, PA, 19608 has a very good tape list for sale. He charges \$1.00 which covers postage. He has some very rare footage available.

When Bam Bam Bigelow appears in the NWA, don't look for his wrestling gear to include the flames. Titan has served him with legal stuff preventing him from wearing the ring wear they had designed for him. Not much they can do about his name or the tattoo on his noggin, but I'm sure they'd like to try.

Randy Savage and Elizabeth were guest on one of those morning talkshows (there's so many of them I can't keep track any more) and Ted DiBiase was on this week's edition of Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. Ted stayed completely in character and it looked like a skit right out of TNT. One scene had Ted asking (asking?!))! Virgil for some champagne and getting it. Host Robin Leech held out his glass, but Virgil poured the champagne into the dog's dish instead. The same thing happened with the caviar with Virgil feeding Leech's protion to the dog.

Sean apologizes to those of you who had ballots in the last tournament returned to you. It seems his post office at college returned anything that was received before he got to school. The earlier you send in reader participation entries, the better...most times.

Windy City's next card is scheduled for November 12 (A SATURDAY NIGHT!!!) and there's a good chance that I will be going. I don't think I'll break the news to my wife until after the Memphis trip though.

To all of you coming to convention, have a safe trip and we'll see you in just a couple of days. To the rest of you, I'm afraid we're out of room and we'll see you in two weeks. We'll be back to the usual 28 pages next time with complete coverage of what is turning out to be a wild convention weekend.

See ya! Bye!

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